

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 6, 17, 31, 42 and 52 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
first receiving means that receives information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and receiving information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second scanning apparatus;

second receiving means that receives information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and receiving information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus; and

generating means that generates a device information table on the basis of the information received by said first receiving means and the information received by the second receiving means; and

controlling means that controls which printer is to print processing of image data received from one of the first or second scanning apparatuses to send the received image data to one of the first or second printing apparatuses based on the device information table generated by the generating means received by the first receiving means and the information received by the second receiving means,

wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when at least on of the first and second scanning apparatuses and the first and second printing apparatuses is changed.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controlling means sends image data received from the second scanning apparatus, which does not have a forgery-preventing function, to the first printing apparatus, which does have a forgery-preventing function.

3. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising notifying means that notifies a user by a warning when the forgery-preventing function of the first scanning apparatus and the forgery-preventing function of the first printing apparatus judges that the image data is data of a specific image.

4. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the data of the specific image is information expressing a specific pattern or a digital water mark.

5. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive the information from the first and second scanning apparatuses and from the first and second printing apparatuses when the image processing apparatus turns on.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive the information from the first and second scanning apparatuses when the first and second scanning apparatuses receive a scanning indication, or the first and second printing apparatuses receive a printing indication, from the image processing apparatus.

8. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when a new scanning apparatus or a new printing apparatus is connected to the image processing apparatus via a network.

9. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means sends the image data received from the first scanning apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, to one of the first or second printing apparatuses according to a selection by an operator of the image processing apparatus.

10. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means sends a permission signal to the first scanning apparatus permitting the first scanning apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, to send image data directly to one of the first or second printing apparatuses as selected by an operator, if the forgery-preventing function of the first scanning apparatus judges the image data as data of a specific image.

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
first receiving means that receives information from a first scanning  
apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning  
apparatus, and receiving information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the  
absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second scanning apparatus;

second receiving means that receives information from a first printing  
apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing  
apparatus, and receiving information from a second printing apparatus indicating the  
absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus;

generating means that generates a device information table on the basis of  
the information received by the first receiving means and the information received by the  
second receiving means;

inputting means that inputs information related to a selected scanner  
apparatus for image scanning; and

notifying means that notifies a user, based on the information received by  
the first receiving means, the information received by the second receiving means,  
information stored in the device information table, and the information input by the input  
means, of at least one available printing apparatus for which image data can be sent to for  
printing.

wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive  
information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when at  
least one of the first and second scanning apparatuses and the first and second printing  
apparatuses is changed.

12. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the notifying means notifies the user that the first printing apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, is an available printing apparatus if the selected scanning apparatus is the second scanning apparatus, which does not have a forgery-preventing function.

13. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the notifying means notifies the user that the first printing apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, and the second printing apparatus, which does not have a forgery-preventing function, are available printing apparatuses if the selected scanning apparatus is the first scanning apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function.

14. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising warning means that warns a user when the forgery-preventing function of the first scanning apparatus and a forgery-preventing function of the first printing apparatus judges forgery.

15. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the forgery-preventing function of the first scanning apparatus and the forgery-preventing function of the first printing apparatus judges a forgery based on a specific pattern or a digital water mark.

16. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the first receiving means receives the information from the first and second scanning apparatuses and the second receiving means receives the information from the first and second printing apparatuses when the image processing apparatus turns on.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the first receiving means receives the information from the first and second scanning apparatuses and the second receiving means receives the information from the first and second printing apparatuses when the first or second scanning apparatuses or the first or second printing apparatuses receive a scanning or printing indication from the image processing apparatus.

19. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when a new scanning apparatus or printing apparatus is connected to the image processing apparatus via a network.

20. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive specification

information from the first and second scanning apparatuses and the first and second printing apparatuses.

21. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the notifying means further notifies the user of the specification information for the user to select a preferable scanning apparatus and printing apparatus.

22. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:  
a first receiving step of receiving information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and receiving information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second scanning apparatus;

a second receiving step of receiving information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and receiving information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus;

generating a device information table on the basis of the information received in the first receiving step and the information received in the second receiving step; and

controlling processing of which printer is to print image data received from one of the first and second scanning apparatuses to send the received image data to one of the first or second printing apparatuses; based on the device information table generated by the generating received in the first receiving step and the second receiving step,

wherein the first receiving step and the second receiving step receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when at least one of the first and second scanning apparatuses and the first and second printing apparatuses is changed.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable program product, comprising a stored on a computer readable medium having computer program code stored thereon, said product program comprising:

code for receiving information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and receiving information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second scanning apparatus;

code for receiving information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and receiving information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus;

code for generating a device information table on the basis of the information received by the first receiving step and the information received by the second receiving step; and

code for controlling processing of which printer is to print image data received from one of the first and second scanning apparatuses to send the received image data to one of the first or second printing apparatuses; based on the device information table generating by the generating step received in the first receiving step and the second

receiving step, that controls to send image data received from one of the scanning apparatuses based on the information received from the scanning apparatuses and the printing apparatuses,

wherein the first receiving step and the second receiving step receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when at least one of the first and second scanning apparatuses and the first and second printing apparatuses is changed.

24. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:  
a first receiving step of receiving information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and receiving information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the scanning apparatus;

a second receiving step of receiving information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and receiving information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus;

generating a device information table on the basis of the information received in the first receiving step and the information received in the second receiving step;

inputting information related to a selected scanner apparatus for image scanning; and

notifying a user, based on the information received by the first receiving step, the information received by the second receiving step, information stored in the device information table, and the information input in the input step, of at least one available printing apparatus for which image data can be sent to for printing,

wherein the first receiving step and the second receiving step receive information indicative of a forgery-preventing function when at least one of the first and second scanning apparatuses and the first and second printing apparatuses is changed.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable program product; comprising stored on a computer readable medium having computer program code stored thereon, said product program comprising:

code for a first receiving step of receiving information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and receiving information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the scanning apparatus;

code for a second receiving step of receiving information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and receiving information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus;

code for a generating a device information table on the basis of the information received by the first receiving step and the information received by the second receiving step;

code for inputting information related to a selected scanner apparatus for image scanning; and

code for notifying a user, based on the information received by the first receiving step, the information received by the second receiving step, the information stored in the device table, and the information input in the input step, of at least one available printing apparatus for which image data can be sent to for printing,

wherein the first receiving step and the second receiving step receive information indicative of a forgery-preventing function when at least one of the first and second scanning apparatuses and the first and second printing apparatuses is changed.

26. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
an interface unit arranged to receive information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, to receive information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second scanning apparatus, to receive information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and to receive information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus;

a generating unit arranged to generate a device information table on the basis of the information on the first and second scanning apparatuses and the information on the first and second printing apparatuses received by the interface unit; and

a processor unit arranged to control processing of which printer is to print image data received from one of the first and second scanning apparatuses to send the

received image data to one of the first or second printing apparatuses; based on the device information table generated by the generating received by the interface unit,

wherein the interface unit receives information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when at least one of the first and second scanning apparatuses and the first and second printing apparatuses is changed.

27. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said processing unit sends image data received from the second scanning apparatus, which does not have a forgery-preventing function, to the first printing apparatus, which does have a forgery-preventing function.

28. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 26 further comprising a display unit arranged to display a warning when the forgery-preventing function of the first scanning apparatus and a forgery-preventing function of the first printing apparatus judges image data as data of a specific image.

29. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the data of a specific image is information expressing a specific pattern or a digital water mark.

30. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the interface unit is arranged to receive the information from the first scanning

apparatus, the second scanning apparatus, the first printing apparatus, and the second printing apparatus, when the image processing apparatus turns on.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the interface unit is arranged to receive the information from the first scanning apparatus, the second scanning apparatus, the first printing apparatus, and the second printing apparatus, when the first or second scanning apparatuses or the first or second printing apparatuses receive a scanning or printing indication from the image processing apparatus.

33. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the interface unit is arranged to receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when a new scanning apparatus or printing apparatus is connected to the image processing apparatus via a network.

34. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the processor unit is arranged to send the image data received from the first scanning apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, to one of the first or second printing apparatuses as selected by an operator of the image processing apparatus.

35. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the processing unit is arranged to send a permission signal to the first scanning apparatus permitting the first scanning apparatus to send image data directly to a printing apparatus selected by an operator, if the forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus judges the image data as data of a specific image.

36. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
an interface unit arranged to receive information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, to receive information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second scanning apparatus, to receive information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and to receive information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus;

a generating unit arranged to generate a device information table on the basis of the information on the first and second scanning apparatuses and the information on the first and second printing apparatuses received by the interface unit;

a pointing unit arranged to indicate information related to a selected scanner apparatus for image scanning; and

a display unit arranged to display, based on the information received by the interface unit, information stored in the device information table, and the information indicated by the pointing unit, at least one available printing apparatus for which image data can be sent to for printing.

wherein the interface unit receives information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when at least one of the first and second scanning apparatuses and the first and second printing apparatuses is changed.

37. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the display unit is arranged to display the first printing apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, as the available printing apparatus if the selected scanning apparatus is the second scanning apparatus, which does not have a forgery-preventing function.

38. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the display unit is arranged to display the first printing apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, and the second printing apparatus, which does not have a forgery-preventing function, as the available printing apparatus if the selected scanning apparatus is the first scanning apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function.

39. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the display unit is arranged to display a warning when the forgery-preventing function of the first scanning apparatus and the forgery-preventing function of the first printing apparatus judges a forgery.

40. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the forgery-preventing function of the first scanning apparatus and the forgery-

preventing function of the first printing apparatus judges a forgery based on a specific pattern or a digital water mark.

41. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the interface unit is arranged to receive the information from the first scanning apparatus, the second scanning apparatus, the first printing apparatus, and the second printing apparatus, when the image processing apparatus is turned on.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the interface unit is arranged to receive the information from the first scanning apparatus, the second scanning apparatus, the first printing apparatus, and the second printing apparatus, when one of the first or second scanning apparatuses or the first or second printing apparatuses receive a scanning or printing indication from the image processing apparatus.

44. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the interface unit is arranged to receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when a new scanning apparatus or printing apparatus is connected to the image processing apparatus via a network.

45. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the interface unit is arranged to receive specification information from the first and second scanning apparatuses and the first and second printing apparatuses.

46. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the display unit is arranged to display the specification information for an operator to select a preferable scanning apparatus and printing apparatus.

47. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus that communicates with one or more image reading devices and one or more image output devices, comprising:

first receiving means that receives information indicating whether or not a device has a forgery-preventing function judgment capability from each of the one or more image reading devices and each of the one or more image output devices;

generating means for generating a device information table on the basis of the information on the one or more image reading devices and the information on the one or more image output devices received by the first receiving means;

second receiving means that receives image data read by one of the one or more image reading devices;

judging means that judges whether or not the image reading device that reads the image data includes a forgery-preventing judgment capability function from the forgery-preventing judgment capability function information of the image reading device received by the first receiving means; and

controlling means that controls where the image data received by the second receiving means is to be output to in order to output the image data to an appropriate image output device based on a judged result of the judging means and the forgery-preventing judgment capability information of the image output device received by the first receiving device information table generated by the generating means,

wherein the first receiving means receives the information indicating whether or not the device has the forgery-preventing function when at least one of the image reading devices and the image output devices is changed.

48. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 47, wherein said controlling means outputs the image data to an output device that includes a forgery-preventing judgment capability function if the image reading device that read the image data does not include a forgery-preventing judgment capability function.

49. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 47 further comprising notifying means that notifies a user by a warning when the forgery-preventing judgment capability function of an image reading device or an image output device judges the image data is data of a specific image.

50. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the data of the specific image is information expressing a specific pattern or a digital water mark.

51. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the first receiving means receives the information indicating whether or not the device has the forgery-preventing judgement capability function when the image processing apparatus is turned on.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the first receiving means receives the information indicating whether or not the device has the forgery-preventing judgement capability function when at least one of the image reading devices or at least one of the image output devices receives a reading or an image output indication from the image processing apparatus.

54. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the first receiving means receives the information indicating whether or not the device has the forgery-preventing judgement capability function when a new image reading device or a new image output device is connected to the image processing apparatus via a network.

55. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the controlling means outputs the image data to an output device selected by an operator of the image processing apparatus if the image reading device that read the image data includes a forgery-preventing judgment capability function.

56. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for an image processing apparatus that communicates with one or more image reading devices and one or more image output devices, comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving information indicating whether or not a device has a forgery-preventing judgment capability function from each of the one or more image reading devices and the one or more image output devices;

a generating step of generating a device information table on the basis of the information on the one or more image reading devices and the information on the one or more image output devices received by the first receiving means;

a second receiving step of receiving image data read by one of the one or more image reading devices;

judging whether or not the image reading device that reads the image data includes a forgery-preventing judgment capability function from the forgery-preventing judgment capability function information of the image reading device received in the first receiving step; and

controlling where the image data received in the second receiving step is to be output to in order to output the image data to an appropriate image output device based on a judged result of the judging step and the forgery-preventing judgment capability information of the image output device received by the first receiving device information table generated in the generating step,

wherein the first receiving step receives the information indicating whether or not the device has the forgery-preventing function when at least one of the image reading devices and the image output devices is changed.

57. and 58. (Canceled)